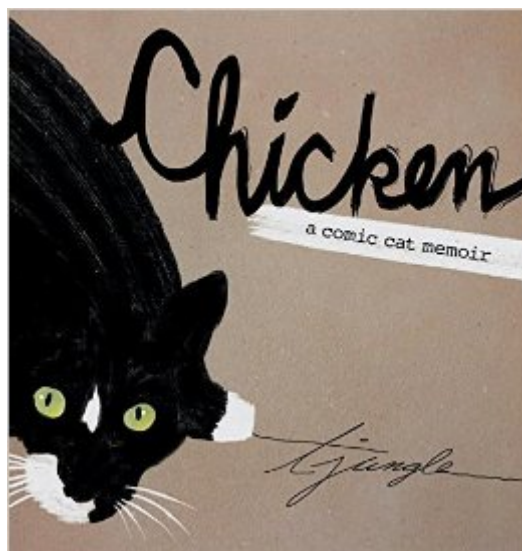


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# Chicken: A Comic Cat Memoir



## Synopsis

A great read for kids and cats of all ages :-). As a girl, TJ longed for a cat but allergies got in the way. In spite of it, the universe conspired for a cat to find her through a series of dreams and friendly guides. In 72 full-color illustrations, this graphic memoir tells the story of a nomadic artist and her relationship with the adorable cat "Chicken" who confirms their fate by immediately addressing TJ with "come-you" instead of "comeow." Staying by TJ's side for 17 years spanning four cities (San Francisco, Chicago, Los Angeles, and Pittsburgh), Chicken's tale ranges from funny to emotional, sweet to silly, thoughtful to mystical. Chicken is a soulful expression of the love between cat and person as it collides with the powerful tide of family, friends, loss, and the invisible forces that connect us.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 82 pages

Publisher: t.jungle Design (January 8, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0976203502

ISBN-13: 978-0976203506

Product Dimensions: 8.5 x 0.4 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (27 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #346,994 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #36 in [Books > Children's Books > Comics & Graphic Novels > Biographies](#) #1011 in [Books > Children's Books > Animals > Cats](#) #2298 in [Books > Children's Books > Biographies](#)

Age Range: 5 - 12 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 6

## Customer Reviews

At first glance, Chicken: A Comic Cat Memoir by Terese Jungle is, on the surface, a children's picture book about a woman and her cat. It's a memoir of the author's life as well as a beautiful memory of her cat, Chicken. But it's also a book adult readers will enjoy not only for the delightful art but also for the greater story of TJ's life. I'm a reader who enjoys graphic novels, and the further I got into the story, the more I realized this was more than just a children's book. The art, the words, and the doodle-like notes in the margins are where TJ celebrates her journey as an artist and a friend to many other creative people. TJ grew up allergic to

cats, but over time, the allergy faded. Now an adult, she dreams of a tuxedo cat with bright green eyes and when she can't find the cat at the local shelter, her friend Mimi announces that the cat must be looking for her. Of course, the cat finds TJ and they are a perfect fit for each other. The cat, named Chicken, follows TJ on her journey through life, sometimes at her side and sometimes in the care of others. But, like all pets, Chicken's life comes to an end, and TJ and her daughter have to deal with it. It's a beautiful, tenderly told story that's appropriate for both children and adults. I can see why the author calls this, "A great book to read to cats (and kids)." The illustrations are delightful, even child-like. The book would be a good way to help young children talk about their feelings about the loss of a beloved pet. But if you pay attention to all the little doodles, background decoration and the notes scattered throughout the illustrations, there's a second story brewing that's just for adults. Look carefully, there are little gems buried in the details of the illustrations!

Check it: I despise almost all books and movies about children or animals (though I adore both in real life). Screw Charlotte the spider and Wilbur the pig! Begone, Black Stallion! And I certainly don't care for animals as central subjects of works of visual art any more than I look forward to seeing pet pics on Facebook. Luckily, I was turned on to Terese's lovely and worthy book, *CHICKEN: A COMICS CAT MEMOIR*, and I learned that a story about a cat can be much more than a story about a cat. Presented via clever and unmistakable Teresean illustrations that include handwritten text and word balloons, *CHICKEN* tracks the autobiographical plot of a girl named TJ who used to be "every, very allergic" to cats, grew out of the allergy (or the allergy grew out of her), had recurring dreams of a green-eyed black-and-white "tuxedo tabby" and eventually adopted and adored just such a cat until her (the cat's) death many years later. One of the basic messages of the book is the grand miracle of fated intimacies. "[Those] destined to meet will do so, apparently by chance, at precisely the right time" goes a pertinent quote attributed to Emerson on the dedication page, though, for the life of me, I don't know from which work it came "and I know my Emerson. Dovetailing this quote, TJ's friend Mimi gives her some sage advice about how to go about acquiring the right cat: "[Y]ou have to wait for your cat to find you." Sure enough, TJ discovers one of a few stray cats outside of Grace Cathedral in San Francisco and resolves to go from being a cured cat-activated sneezer to a full-blown cat owner. Eventually TJ names the cat Chicken. Yes: Chicken. Why? Because the cat makes a rare, if not unique, "bak" sound, which, thankfully, provides the central gimmick for the book's title.

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